

1997 now U.S. Patent No. 5,890,862 and application serial
no. 09/100,724 of June 19, 1998, not U.S. Patent No.
6,000,296.---

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-13. Please add new Claims 14
and 15 as follows, which constitutes a clean copy thereof:

14. A coil spreader system for use in and in
combination with a spiral in a spiral bound book binding
machine comprising a spreader for significantly spreading
apart trailing and leading ends of said spiral prior to
first and last holes of a row of holes in a book to be
spirally bound to compensate for said first and last holes
having bridge distances from ends of said book greater than
the spacing of said holes, said spreader comprising two
spreader members, one of said spreader members insertable
within respective coils of said spiral at respective points
before the leading edge of said spiral enters a final hole
and another of said spreader members insertable within
respective coils of said spiral at respective points at the
trailing edge of said spiral before entry into said first
hole, each of spreader members comprising a base with a
blade attached at an oblique angle, said blade having a
surface with a curved contour with a rounded corner to
spread the leading and trailing edges of said spiral without
damage to the spiral.

15. The coil spreader system of claim 14 with a pair of opposing elongated jaws with alternating projections and recesses therebetween,

one of said jaws being a fixed jaw horizontally disposed along and attached to a longitudinal frame of said binding machine and the other of said jaws being a movable jaw hinged to said longitudinal frame of said binding machine so as to be movable between an open position and a closed position in close proximity to said fixed jaw for clamping pages of said book in place with holes in alignment with said recesses in preparation for accepting said spiral and wherein

said spreader members are oppositely disposed respectively on said opposing fixed and movable jaws of said comb clamp.